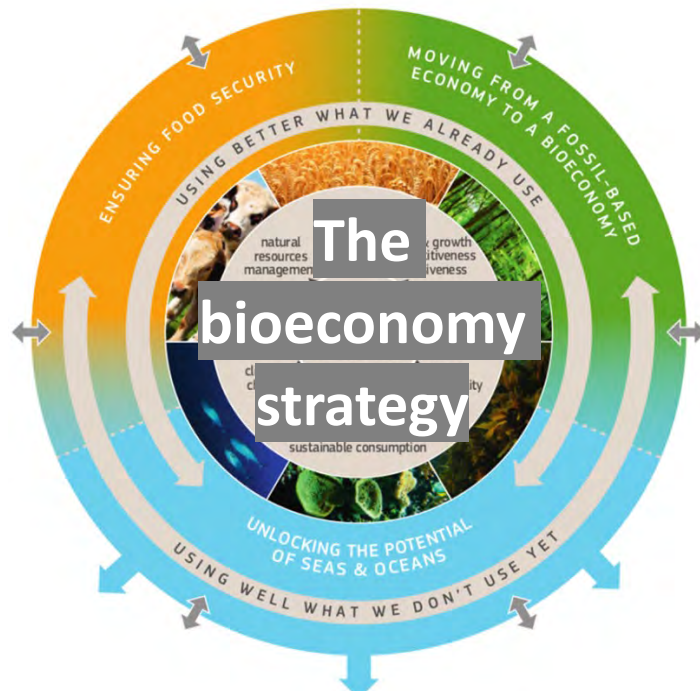


Plastics in the circular economy



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Key product value chains: plastics



Keeping the value
of (plastic)
material in the
circular economy



Implementing the Plastics Strategy

- Mandatory requirements for recycled content
 - ✓ 10 million tons of recycled plastics in new products on the EU market by 2025
- Addressing microplastics in the environment
- Policy framework on biobased & biodegradable plastics
- Implementing Single Use Plastics Directive:
Not against plastics, but tackling its unsustainable use

+ All packaging on the EU market to be reusable or recyclable by 2030

Microplastics

Proposal by end 2022

Cosmetics, detergents, paints

- Towards a ban through REACH restriction dossier: Possibly by 2022

Tyres

- Revision Tyre Labeling Regulation
- Standard on tyre abrasion
- Measures along the value chain

Pellets

- Chain certification & Permitting
- Operation Clean Sweep

Textiles

- Standard on measuring microplastics releases
- Measures along the value chain

Microplastics in water

- Science related to risk & occurrence
- Legislation: water & marine

Framework for biobased plastics (BBP) and biodegradable & compostable plastics (BDCP)

Sourcing, labelling and use of **biobased plastics**

- Biobased content?
- Sustainable sourcing?



Use of compostable plastics

- Limit cross-contamination of waste streams

Use of biodegradable plastics

- “No license to litter”
- Effective biodegradation – system perspective

Sourcing, labelling and use of biobased plastics

‘Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Alternative Feedstocks for Plastics Production’ (JRC, 2021)

- Methodological framework
- Biogenic carbon: international standards and methods in Europe for policy making do not recognise the possibility to allow carbon discounting based on temporary storage

‘Biobased plastics: sustainable sourcing and content’ (EC study, 2021)

- Information on the part of a plastic product that is entirely or partly derived from biomass (actual carbon content) and EU sustainability criteria are needed
- Policy options discussed: e.g. voluntary labelling, linking label on biobased content with sustainability criteria

Labelling and use of biod. & comp. plastics

‘Relevance of compostable plastics & packaging in a CE’ (EC study, 2020)

- Compostable relevant if environmental benefit over alternative:
 - IF product not recyclable or reusable;
 - IF it increases capture of bio-waste;
 - IF LCA demonstrates it is preferred material
- No reduction of quality of compost

‘Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment’ (Chief Scientific Advisors, 2020)

- Prioritize reduction, reuse and recycling of plastics
- Limit to specific applications
- Not as solution for inappropriate waste management or littering

‘Conventional and biodegradable plastics in agriculture’ (EC study, 2021)

- Biodegradable mulches can reduce occurrence and persistence of plastics in the environment

Next steps

A policy framework on biobased, biod. & comp. plastics by summer 2022

- Roadmap published: over 130 contributions received including from public authorities
- Web-based consultation starting in January 2022 (for 8 weeks)
- Relevant national experience for consideration
- Content:
 - Definitions & overarching principles
 - Labelling & sourcing of biobased plastics
 - Labelling & criteria for biodegradable and compostable plastics (+ illustrative examples of possible applications)

refuse



share



reuse



return
&
collect



sort



recycle



Learn more about the circular economy and the plastics strategy:

[Circular economy action plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/pages/press-room.aspx?pid=1024&tid=1024) & [Plastics \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/pages/press-room.aspx?pid=1024&tid=1024)



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